

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 EA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /127 W
-----034790 170303Z /73

R 160020Z FEB 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9604
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEHBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 0543

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, ET, SO, UNSC
SUBJ: EGYPTIAN PERMREP'S VIEWS ON POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL
ACTION ON HORN

REF; USUN 511
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1. SUMMARY: EGYPTIAN PERMREP MEGUID LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY
TO AMB LEONARD'S PRESENTATION OF CURRENT STATE OF PLAY ON
POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON SOMALIA/ETHIOPIAN
HOSTILITIES. MEGUID REMARKED THAT WELL-ORCHESTRATED SC
DEBATE COULD BE USEFUL; HE STATED HE WOULD REPORT BACK TO
CAIRO ON WESTERN FIVE VIEWS. ON SEPARATE QUESTION OF

SECURITY COUNCIL DEBATE ON CHAD/LIBYAN CLASH, MEGUID NOTED EGYPT FAVORED SC ACTION EVEN IF DEBATE DID NOT PRODUCE FORMAL OUTCOME; IMPORTANT THING WAS TO PUT PRESSURE ON LIBYA. THIS IS FIRST TIME LIBYA HAS HAD TO FACE A BLACK AFRICAN NATION. END SUMMARY.

2. LEONARD CALLED ON MEGUID FEBRUARY 15 TO REVIEW CURRENT STATUS OF WESTERN FIVE EFFORTS IN CONNECTION WITH SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON HORN. AFTER RUNDOWN ALONG LINES OF USUN 511, LEONARD POINTED OUT THAT EGYPTIAN AND US INTERESTS IN THE AREA WERE INTERTWINED. TO MEGUID'S QUERY IF THE INITIATIVE TO GO TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL WAS EXCLUSIVELY BY THE WESTERN POWERS, LEONARD REPLIED THAT THIS WAS STILL AN OPEN QUESTION AND THAT THE WESTERN FIVE WERE SOUNDING OUT THE AFRICAN MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL AS WELL AS THE NONALIGNED, BOTH OF WHOM MIGHT PREFERABLY TAKE THE LEAD. WE HAD ALSO DISCUSSED WITH THE SOVIETS THEIR JOINING US IN SPONSORING ACTION BY THE COUNCIL.

3. MEGUID QUERIED FURTHER WHETHER, AS HE HAD HEARD, AN SC DEBATE MIGHT SPLIT INTO TWO CAMPS - ETHIOPIA/USSR AND SOMALIA/WESTERN MEMBERS. MEGUID ADDED THAT HE HAD UNDERSTOOD THAT SOMALIA WOULD BE OPPOSED TO AN SC RESOLUTION IF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR OGADEN WAS NOT INCLUDED. PRINCIPLES OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF ALL STATES POSE COMPLEX ISSUES. MEGUID COMMENTED
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THAT HE WOULD SUPPORT ANY PROPOSAL THAT PROVIDED A WAY OUT OF THE SITUATION. HE NOTED THAT SHOULD AN SC DEBATE SERVE AS A FORUM FOR ATTACKS ON EGYPT AND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMALIA, THEN EGYPT WOULD HAVE TO RESPOND.

4. LEONARD DISCUSSED BRIEFLY THE MAIN ELEMENTS OF A DRAFT RESOLUTION. HE OBSERVED THAT WAS AN OBVIOUS FURTHER OBJECTIVE OF BRINGING ABOUT THE WITHDRAWAL OF CUBAN AND SOVIET FORCES FROM THE AREA. MEGUID SAID HE WOULD INFORM CAIRO OF WESTERN FIVE VIEWS; IF SCENARIO FOR AN SC DEBATE IS WELL-PREPARED THEN IT WOULD SEEM THE COUNCIL SHOULD MOVE AHEAD. IF THE SOVIETS VETO A REASONABLE RESOLUTION THEN THE ONUS FALLS ON THEM.

5. TURNING TO CHAD/LIBYAN CLASH, MEGUID SAID ARAB GROUP WOULD BE MEETING THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE SC ACTION. HE THOUGHT THE COUNCIL COULD SERVE TO PUT PRESSURE ON LIBYA. THE SC COULD CONSIDER THE ISSUE WITHOUT URGENCY AND SHOULD TRY TO AVOID A DEADLOCK. LIBYA IS INDEED WORRIED AT THE PROSPECT OF A SC DEBATE SINCE IT WOULD MARK THE FIRST TIME LIBYA IS "FACING" A BLACK AFRICAN NATION AT THE COUNCIL. MEGUID ENVISAGED A SCENARIO OF SC MEETINGS

AND POSSIBLY ADJOURNMENT SINE DIE, WITH THE PROSPECT
OF FURTHER CONSULTATIONS, SHOULD A RESOLUTION BECOME
BLOCKED. LEONARD NOTED ANOTHER POSSIBLE SCENARIO COULD
INCLUDE BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEETINGS OF THE COUNCIL.

LEONARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEBATES, BOUNDARY CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USUNN00543
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780072-1074
Format: TEL
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780244/aaaablit.tel
Line Count: 122
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1a6647d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USUN NEW YORK 511
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3568170
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EGYPTIAN PERMREP'S VIEWS ON POSSIBLE SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON HORN
TAGS: PBOR, PDEV, MOPS, ET, SO, LY, CD, UNSC, (MEGUID, ADLY ABDEL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1a6647d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014